

# THE COMMUNICATOR

Bronx Community College Newspaper

Volume 13 Number 5

February 1988

## Welcome Back FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

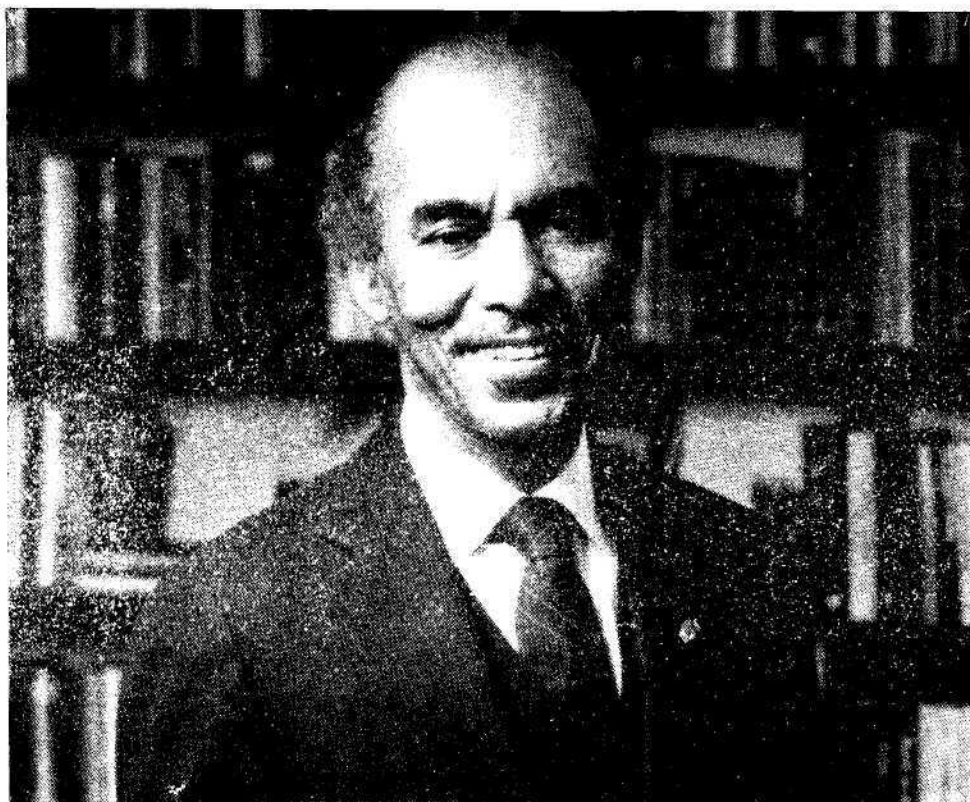


'Go back to where you started, or as far back as you can, examine all of it, travel your road again and tell the truth about it. Sing or shout or testify or keep it to yourself: but know whence you came.'

—James Baldwin



# From the President



**Dr. Roscoe C. Brown Jr.**

It always gives me a great deal of pleasure to welcome both new and returning students to campus at the beginning of each new semester. You are the life-blood of this College, our reason for existing, and it is the task of all the faculty and staff to help you to achieve your goals of obtaining a first-class education and a memorable College experience. We the faculty and staff, stand ready to provide that assistance.

A successful College experience is a joint venture undertaken by a community of scholars of which you are the most important part. A community functions well only if all of its members participate actively and share in the work and play. I encourage you to study hard, participate in your classroom discussions, use the learning resources, and consult often with your counselors and faculty

advisors. By so doing, you will help to ensure that the education you achieve at BCC will serve you well in your future educational and career pursuits.

In addition, I encourage you to participate in the wide array of extra-curricular opportunities available to you at the College. I invite you to attend the many concerts and lectures, participate in the athletic program, join the clubs, and become involved in your student government activities.

By participating in the total College experience, you will enrich your own college lives and those of your fellow students. You have much to give as well as receive from your alma mater.

Welcome to all of you, and accept my personal best wishes for a successful semester!

Dr. Roscoe C. Brown, Jr.  
President

## WELCOME BACK

As we begin a new school year, I look forward to seeing our students becoming more involved as adults and becoming aware of what opportunities are available to them on and off the campus. There are many things happening in the Bronx and in sister campuses that you may never run out of things to see and do.

I give a special welcome message to the freshmen. I would like you to know that you have chosen a great place to acquire knowledge and self confidence to competitively deal with the world. The transition from High School to College life can be difficult if you try to go at it alone but don't be discouraged. Across the nation the enrollment of Black Americans in colleges have dramatically declined.

It is a challenge to all minority people to keep up the fight for a quality education to be productive members of our society and our respective races.

Therefore, I urge you to make the most of your strengths and don't be a quitter.

As a large population, students can make a difference in getting the government to open up the gates for federally funded grant programs. This is one of the circumstances that have dismayed Blacks and other minority

populations from trying to enroll at a college.

As a personal suggestion to those ready to deal with the real world, spend more time in the library this semester as opposed to watching "the soaps" in the T.V. room. Remember, TV will be around all the time. In other words, don't stay in college and "do time", instead, use your time wisely.

The staff of the Communicator wishes you a great school year. We hope you will work with us to better our school paper. We welcome your comments and ideas. We are also open to any student who wants to become a member of our staff. We hope to hear from you soon.

by Audrianna Frankson

Join the

Communicator

# From the Dean



**Dean Sylvia Miranda**

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to Bronx Community College and all the challenges and enjoyments of a college education. To make the most of your college experience, you will need to explore and use all facets of Bronx Community College. Services, programs and activities on campus are crucial parts of the College's educational offering. They function because students take the initiative to utilize them.

I hope you will use your time wisely. Given the many responsibilities BCC

students have, the greatest concern of students is the necessity of effective use of time to attend classes, complete assignments, study for exams and reflect on material read and discussed.

Please become involved in activities and offer suggestions on how these services can serve your needs better. The nonclassroom part of college life has the potential for being as valuable as the classroom experiences.

My sincerest best wishes for a productive academic year!

## GET ACQUAINTED

On campus there are various facilities to help the incoming students make their stay at BCC more pleasant.

Tutoring is available either through the department or the office of special programs in Sage Hall. There are films, sound recordings, and film strips which help to aid the students in their studies.

The computer room is on the second floor of Sage Hall. There are always people on hand to help you out.

The library, which is on the lower level of Tech Two has reference materials and textbooks that are used in class. There is no reason for not getting your assignment done.

If you are having problems and seem to be getting the run around, there is someone who might be able to help out. She is Dr. J. Juechter, the Ombudsperson here on campus. She is located in Loew Hall, Room 307. Her office hours are on Mondays from 2-4 and on Wednesday from 2-4. She will investigate the situation and try to resolve the matter for you.

There are many clubs on campus, and many of them meet on Thursdays between 12:00 and 2:00 p.m. There should be one that interests you. So try to join up and get involved. Come to the student activities office (GSC 309) for more information.

So many things are happening on campus. We should try not to bury our heads in the sand, but participate in what is open to us. Who knows, it might help us in the long run.

## BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE

of the City University of New York

West 181 Street and University Avenue  
Bronx, New York 10453

## STAFF

**Audrianna Frankson**  
editor

**Laura Mills**  
faculty advisor

**Cheryl Keith**  
assistant editor

**Jennifer Jackson**  
treasurer

**Sandra Alamo**  
executive secretary

**Verona Clarke**  
secretary

**David Haughton**  
writer/reporter

**Keith R. Gillespie**  
writer/reporter

**Robert James**  
writer/reporter

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## Black History: A Neglected Thread in American History

American history is much like a quilt, a collection of many colors and pieces. Within that patchwork is the history of black people here, an often overlooked thread that runs the length and breadth of the quilt.

Local lore follows the pattern faithfully.

From the first blacks to arrive in Westchester and Rockland counties - prisoners of war sold into slavery in the 1620's - to Harold Wood, who became the first black to hold elected office in Westchester when he won a seat on the county Board of Supervisors in 1957, blacks have been a part of this area's history.

It was in Westchester County that Madame C.J. Walker, America's first self-made millionairess, played the role of early patron to Marcus Garvey, a man whose back-to-Africa movement at the turn of the century ignited the imagination of millions of blacks dissatisfied with discrimination, lynchings and limited opportunities in the United States and dreaming of a better life in their ancestors' homeland.

Yet despite their role in shaping America, blacks have, with a few exceptions, been invisible on the pages of most local and national history books. Here and there, you may read of Crispus Attucks, a slave who became the first person to die in the Boston Massacre, or Benjamin Bannecker, a free black architect who helped design the nation's capital.

Blacks came to this area not long after the first Africans arrived in Virginia in 1619 aboard a Dutch ship. They came as indentured servants, able to claim their freedom after a stipulated period of work.

Both free and enslaved blacks celebrated "Pinckster Daghem," or Easter, often going to Brooklyn and Manhattan to sell sassafras they had gathered in the mountains. They met in the big towns, danced for eels and made merry.

### Fighting fear

But times changed and attitudes hardened until most blacks in North America were slaves.

In 1664, New York sealed a loophole that had allowed blacks to escape slavery legally - Christian baptism would no longer confer freedom. By the year 1700, laws in New York as well as in the South gradually limited blacks' freedoms, whether they were slave or free. Blacks were restricted to certain trades, barred from testifying in court against whites, banned from entering contracts, and outlawed from buying and selling goods to whites and free blacks.

Yet Elias Neau established in 1704 what is thought to be the first black school in New York. Nearly 200 pupils met each night until Neau's death in 1722, although two students were implicated in a plot to destroy all the English in New York 10 years earlier.



Charles Moore, an African-American interpreter for Historic Hudson Valley, portrays the 18th century slave, Ishmael, at Philipsburg Manor in North Tarrytown.

The history of blacks during that period in New York and other colonies is one of uprisings, actual and imagined. In 1740, slaves in New York City were accused of conspiring to kill slaveholders by poisoning the water supply.

Gen. George Washington, citing the possibility of armed slave rebellions, initially barred all blacks from serving in the Continental Army. Washington, whose favorite drinking spot was the black-owned Fraunces Tavern in New York City, altered his policy to enlist free blacks after the British recruited many blacks with the promise of freedom to those who joined the Red Coats.

At the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown on Crompond Road, a monument pays homage to the black soldiers of the First Rhode Island Regiment who died May 13, 1781, after being ambushed by British troops during the Battle of Pines Bridge, about 2 miles south of the church.

Blacks in the Continental Army served in integrated units and as spies, guerilla fighters and ship pilots. Blacks would not serve again in interracial combat units until after 1948, the year President Harry S. Truman issued an executive order ending the segregation of U.S. troops.

During the Revolutionary War, nearly 5,000 blacks served as soldiers. When the War of Independence ended, the former British colonies were free. Black slaves were not, although by 1801 New York had banned slave trade. Between 1799 and 1804, gradual emancipation of slaves began in New York and New Jersey. By 1827, New York had outlawed slavery.

### Local steps to freedom

But the federal government hardened its position with the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act. The act empowered slaveholders to demand the return of runaway slaves and made it a crime to harbor a fugitive slave or to prevent the return of the slave.

In response, slaves, free blacks and abolitionists organized the Underground Railroad, a network of safehouses along routes that led fleeing slaves to Canada and Northern states.

John Hesdra's house off what is now Route 59 in Nyack was a believed to have been a stop, as were sites in Tarrytown and New Rochelle were also.

When the Union broke apart, blacks again pressed for the right to fight. Among the men who went to war was Simeon Anderson Tierce, a free black from The Hills, a rural community created in the late 1700's when the Purchase Meeting of the Society of Friends freed its slaves and provided land for them. The community survived 150 years, until 1935.

Tierce and his family, all free, were a rarity on the eve of the Civil War. Of 4.4 million blacks in America, 86 percent were slaves and 90 percent lived in the South.

Unlike during the Revolutionary War, blacks fought in segregated units for less pay and fewer privileges than their white counterparts. Poor Northern whites, angered that they had to serve while the wealthy could buy a draft exemption with 4300, led several draft riots that became indiscriminate racial attacks. The rioters blamed blacks for their troubles. One draft riot in New York City in 1863 lasted three days.

Five of Tierce's letters to his wife, Sarah Jane, survive in the National Archives. Tierce, who became a sergeant in the 14th Regiments, Rhode Island Colored Heavy Artillery, died July 8, 1864 of fever.

Tierce had sent home glimpses of a changing world. His letter of Feb. 15, 1864, read: "God is about to do the work that has been prayed years and years before we thought about praying, for God has seen and answered prayer. He is about to pluck out root and branch in the south and I see in some of the states he has been to work already. In the City of New Orleans, I went ashore for some soft bread for the men. I saw that God had been to work there and had moved the old slaveholders out and colored people were keeping stores themselves and I saw that they were men and women capable of doing it. The time won't be long before we can see (me) another once more on our soil. All the colored people down here welcome us here with glad hands."

President Lincoln declared on Sept. 22, 1882, that on the first day of 1883 all slaves in the states that had seceded from the Union would be free. But the Emancipation Proclamation did not affect some 800,000 slaves. It was not until Dec. 18, 1865, that slavery was abolished in the United States, with the passage of the 13th Amendment.

### A mecca for blacks

For a while after the end of the Civil War, Tierce's optimism might have been justified. The Reconstruction era, 1809 to 1901, gave blacks in the South unparalleled political power.

South Carolina had 210 black state legislators, the largest number in the country. Louisiana was second with 121. But the political glory days ended. Southern whites regained control of political institutions and the Ku Klux Klan's influence spread. Between 1889 and 1929, 3,000 blacks, mostly Southern, were lynched.

While blacks' political power in the South waned, the arts, music and ideas flourished in the Harlem Renaissance in New York City. It was a time of literary greats, Langston Hughes and Ralph Ellison, of black pride leaders W.E.B. DuBois and Marcus Garvey.

The North was a mecca for many blacks with its promise of jobs and less overt racism. The migration began in earnest around 1916 as Northern job recruiters scoured various states looking for miners, railroad freight and section hand workers, and unskilled industrial laborers to replace European immigrants who had returned to their homelands at the start of World War I.

The migration trickled through the 1930s to become a torrent between 1940 and 1970, when an estimated 4.5 million blacks moved north.

Between 1916 and 1970, blacks found themselves serving as soldiers in four wars - World War I and II, Korea and Vietnam. The two world wars had a profound effect on black soldiers, who found in Europe a place where

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## Black History

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Jim Crow was not king.

That discovery in World War I disturbed the U.S. military and prompted the French military to issue a May 1919 directive to its officers "to prevent the rise of any pronounced degree of intimacy between French officers and black officers," to not "commend too highly the black American troops, particularly in the presence of (white) Americans" and to "make a point of keeping the native cantonment population from spoiling the Negroes."

### The heartache of change

To returning black soldiers, the knowledge that not all societies practiced racial discrimination may have made the idea of full civil rights in the United States seem less like a dream. But it would be years, many of them violent, before Jim Crow gave way to civil rights.

Westchester had its share of turmoil in the years of transition. In 1949, rural Peekskill erupted in two riots, ostensibly over a proposed concert by singer-actor-communist Paul Robeson to raise money for the defense of six black men in New Jersey on trial for their lives. But the president of the Afro-American Historical Society says the disturbances in August and September were the violent response by whites to a strong, tightly knit black community and its chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Whites saw blacks as rivals for the scarce jobs in Peekskill.

The civil-rights era brought into the living rooms of America the vivid, brutal pictures of black still asking for equality and being answered with fire hoses and police dogs.

Here, the first federal court order of school desegregation in the North was handed down against New Rochelle. And the Freedom Summer of 1964 had lasting meaning for a Pelham family: Michael "Mickey" Schwermer went off to register black voters in the South and never came home. His murder, along with two other civil-rights workers, became one of the better-known tragedies of the time.

The struggle has not ended.

May Morgan Robinson, 83, fought for the rights of her people in Yonkers most of her life. Still, there is work, to be done by her daughter, Joanne Robinson.

A strong supporter of the Rev. Jesse Jackson's campaign for president and a member of his Rainbow Coalition, she is working on registering underrepresented people to vote, particularly blacks and the poor.

"What do we have the Voting Rights Acts for?" Joanne Robinson says. "People should understand it, and make a big deal of it. With a smile, here mother comments. 'See how well I brought her up?'"

Negro History Week was introduced in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History in Washington, D.C.

In 1988, it is Black History Month, observed in February to honor the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and of the great abolition leader, speaker and editor Frederick Douglass.

Yet 62 years later, black history remains to be fully discovered, fully recognized and fully taught.

# FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH



**RICHARD ALLEN**

Abolitionist, Founder of the AME Church (1760-1831)

Richard Allen, former slave who taught himself to read and write, purchased his freedom with his own money and later became the founder and first bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, today's largest denomination of blacks with over 2 million members.

Born in Philadelphia, he moved to a Delaware plantation with his family where he lived and worked until the age of 20. Allen joined the Methodist Society — an active organization of preachers — and later began to hold their meetings. He subsequently earned enough money as a laborer and brickmaker to purchase his and his brother's freedom.

During the Revolutionary War, Allen drove a wagon and preached along the East Coast before returning to Philadelphia in 1786. There he preached the morning services for blacks at St. George Methodist Episcopal Church. However, during regular church services, he and other blacks were forced to worship upstairs.

The unfair treatment of blacks in the Methodist church prompted Allen and another minister, Absalom Jones, to organize the Free African Society — one of the country's first civil rights organizations. Allen later established the AME Church and in 1816 became its first bishop. He continued to preach until his death in 1831.

The first monument built by blacks was dedicated to Allen in 1876 in Philadelphia. The AME Church, which consists of 8,000 member churches in 29 countries, is celebrating its 200th anniversary with a year long celebration commencing in Philadelphia and ending in Texas in 1988.

## OUR FORGOTTEN HEROES



**JOHN RUSSWURM**

Editor, Politician and Statesman (1799-1851)

John Russwurm, editor, politician, and one of the nation's first black college graduates, launched this country's first black newspaper, **The Freedom's Journal**, with a headline that read, "We wish to plead our own cause. Too long have others spoken for us..."

Russwurm was born a slave in Port Antonio, Jamaica. In 1819 he attended a prep school and later Bowdoin College in Maine. Graduating in 1826, he became one of the first black graduates of an American college.

Upon graduation, he went to New York where he found a media that was pro-slavery and critical of free blacks in the U.S. Realizing that blacks could counter these attacks if they had their own newspaper, Russwurm and Presbyterian Minister Samuel Cornish edited and published **The Freedom's Journal**. The weekly newspaper, when it first appeared March 16, 1827 in New York City, attacked slavery and demanded full and equal citizenship for blacks.

Two years later, readers were surprised by Russwurm's intentions to move to Africa, where he felt blacks could have more opportunities and attain full citizenship. He resigned his position as editor, obtained a master's degree from Bowdoin College, and moved to Liberia, an African country founded by former American slaves. He edited **The Liberia Herald**, and later became that country's superintendent of education.

Russwurm also became governor of the Maryland settlement in Liberia and served until his death. A monument was erected in his honor on an island off the coast of Liberia.



**ELIZABETH E. WRIGHT**

Educator, Founder of Voorhees College (1872-1906)

Elizabeth Evelyn Wright, who at 25 realized her dream of educating blacks despite numerous threats and obstacles, founded Voorhees College in makeshift quarters over a store with 14 students. Voorhees is now a fully accredited liberal arts institution in Denmark, S.C.

Born in Talbotton, Ga., Wright's education began at age 7 in a church basement. She often wondered why blacks had limited educational and economic opportunities. This disparity kindled a desire to educate and train blacks in industrial skills. At 16, she enrolled in Tuskegee Normal and Industrial Institute in Alabama and was inspired by the school's founder, noted educator Booker T. Washington. She hoped someday to model her own school after his.

After receiving her teacher's certificate in 1894, Wright returned to McNeil's, S.C., where she had previously taught part-time, to build a school. Due to lack of support for this revolutionary idea, her attempts failed. At one point hostile groups burned the lumber and buildings she planned to use. Wright persevered and continued her search for new property and funding in other parts of town, despite poor health.

After three years of effort, she opened her school in Denmark, S.C. In 1902, Ralph Voorhees, a blind philanthropist from Clinton, N.J., was impressed by Wright's efforts, and he and his wife donated \$3,000 to purchase land for the school. In honor of his generosity, Denmark Industrial School was renamed Voorhees Industrial School.

Wright died at 34 and is buried on the school campus. Voorhees College gained full accreditation in 1967 and participates in the United Negro College Fund.

## FREE NELSON MANDELLA

Way down in south Africa's land on a small prison island there is an african leader held prisoner.

Free Nelson Mandela, O God of justice; break the chains of his unjust imprisonment.

For a quarter century on robbin's island,

Nelson has been in the inhuman prison cells

of the oppressive south africa regime. O God of justice, help us to tear down the walls of the prison island, to dismantle the structures of apartheid.

Free Nelson Mandela and all political prisoners;

let freedom ring in africa and everywhere on earth.

Through struggle, O God, through struggle

with thy power and might we shall free Nelson Mandela.

## African Proverbs

1. Wisdom outweighs strength
2. If you are greedy in conversation you lose the wisdom of your friend
3. You send a wise person on an important mission, not a long-legged person
4. The wise person who does not learn ceases to be wise
5. When a fowl is eating your neighbor's corn, drive it away or someday it will eat yours
6. It is easier to put out a fire in the house of a neighbor than to deal with the smoke in one's own
7. One should not ignore an elephant and throw stones at a small bird
8. Children are the wealth of a nation
9. The moon moves slowly but it crosses the town
10. When a cock is drunk he forgets about the hawk
11. Home affairs are not talked about on the public square
12. When the mouse laughs at the

cat, there is a hole nearby

13. If you are building a house and a nail breaks, do you stop building, or do you change the nail?

14. No matter how long the night, the day is sure to come

15. He who digs too deep for a fish, may come out with a snake

16. Confiding a secret to an unworthy person is like carrying grain in a bag with a hole

17. Cross the river in a crowd and the crocodile won't eat you

18. No one tests the depth of a river with both feet

19. He who is bitten by a snake fears a lizard

20. Only when you have crossed the river can you say the crocodile has a lump on his snout

21. Two birds disputed over a kernel when a third swooped down and carried it off

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# Campus News

## Bronx Community College Offers New Courses

### 40 Courses for Adults and Children

Bronx Community College is offering 40 low-cost adult education courses this spring beginning the week of March 14. Classes will be held at the college, University Avenue and West 181 Street, The Bronx.

Career development courses include Travel Agent, Driving School Instructor, Security Guard, Notary Public and Repairing Computer Circuits.

Office skills courses cover Typing, Word Processing, Computer Literacy and Bookkeeping. Other offerings are Photography and Aerobics.

A Saturday morning program of creative and recreational courses is

set for children (ages 7-12) and young adults (ages 13-18).

Children's courses include Drawing, Painting, and Sketching; Creations in Clay; Singing in Harmony; Beginning Guitar; Puppetry, Ventriloquism, and Magic; Safety and Self-Defense for Boys and Girls; Spanish for Kids; Tap Dance; and Modern Dance. Participants will be enrolled for two courses for a total of 20 hours of instruction. Tuition for both courses is \$37.50.

The Young Adults' Program for high school students allows them to sample the college environment while pursuing their own creative or physical education. Students may enroll for the Photography Workshop or Self-Defense Institute.

For information, call (212) 229-6424.

### BCC Invites You to Get Involved in SHARE

Bronx Community College has started a new community service effort. With a two-year grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education (FIPSE), the college has become a host organization for Self-Help and Resource Exchange (SHARE), an international program that enables communities to organize and participate in self-help activities.

By creating a network of community organizations which includes churches, senior citizen centers and neighborhood associations, SHARE enables its members to purchase packages of food worth about \$32 for only \$12 and two hours of community service. Each participating group is responsible for collecting the money and assisting with the bagging and distribution of food. The expectation is that once communities learn how to organize themselves, they will have gained the skills and self-confidence necessary to undertake other important projects.

SHARE, which originated in San Diego, is now located in 12 cities throughout the country including the Bronx. Each SHARE location includes a warehouse where SHARE members meet monthly to bag and arrange food for distribution by the host organizations.

Professor Michael Steuerman is overseeing the development and implementation of a training program for 25 BCC students. Each student will be paid from College Work Study funds or receive college credit for field work in Community Health or Human Services courses.

The training program is being collaboratively developed by Dr. J. Juechter of the college's Department of Health and Physical Education, and Dr. Lee Stuart, founder of SHARE, New York, and Professor Steuerman, Project Director.

Ms. Barbara Schaefer-Peleg is developing a training manual that will be used to bring the project to other colleges throughout the country.

In the two months of its operation, SHARE has thus far served over 125 families which include members of the community and Bronx Community College students and staff.

The community is invited to participate in SHARE. For information, contact Ms. Frances Martinez at (212) 220-6420.

### BCC Introduces Adult Career Counselling

Bronx Community College has opened a new Adult Career Counseling Center in Gould Residence Hall, Room 317, University Avenue and West 181 Street, The Bronx.

The center offers free career workshops and group and individual counseling sessions.

Workshops cover career decision-making, skills identification, resume writing, interview techniques and educational and employment information.

The project is funded by The City University of New York through a grant from New York State.

The office is open Mondays through Thursdays from 5 to 9 p.m. For information, call (212) 220-6265.

## Youth Internship at BCC

### Public Service Announcement

THE YOUTH INTERNSHIP AT BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR PAID INTERNSHIPS IN CLERICAL AND BUILDING MAINTENANCE, TRAINING AND GED CLASSES. IF YOU ARE BETWEEN THE AGES OF 17 AND 21 AND IN NEED OF TRAINING AND GED PREPARATION, CALL 220-6408. THAT'S THE YOUTH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM AT BRONX COMMUNITY COLLEGE FOR 17 TO 21 YEARS OLD. CALL 220-6408.

### BCC Art Gallery Presents

The friends of Bronx Community Art Gallery will present a special exhibit from the Schomburg Center for Black Culture from Tuesday, February 16 through March 3. Admission is free and the public is invited.

The Art Gallery is located in Bliss Hall, University Avenue and West 181 Street, The Bronx. Visitors are welcome Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The exhibit, in honor of Black History Month, includes some 38 photographs produced from 1840 to 1940 by Black photographers.

For additional information, call (212) 220-6240.

### ATTENTION All Unemployed Youths

The Youth Internship Program (YIP) at Bronx Community College reaches out to students 17 to 21 years of age who are out of school and unemployed.

Headed by Mr. Michael Glaser, the program provides academic upgrading, training in building maintenance, clerical studies, on-the-job office experience and job preparation workshops. Students are paid for work at office placements.

According to Mr. Glaser, participants will increase their math and reading scores a minimum of two grade levels and be able to type 30 to 45 words per minute. GED preparation is an additional component of the program.

For information, call (212) 220-6408 or 220-6109.

### African Proverbs

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22. Wood may remain ten years in water but it will never become a crocodile

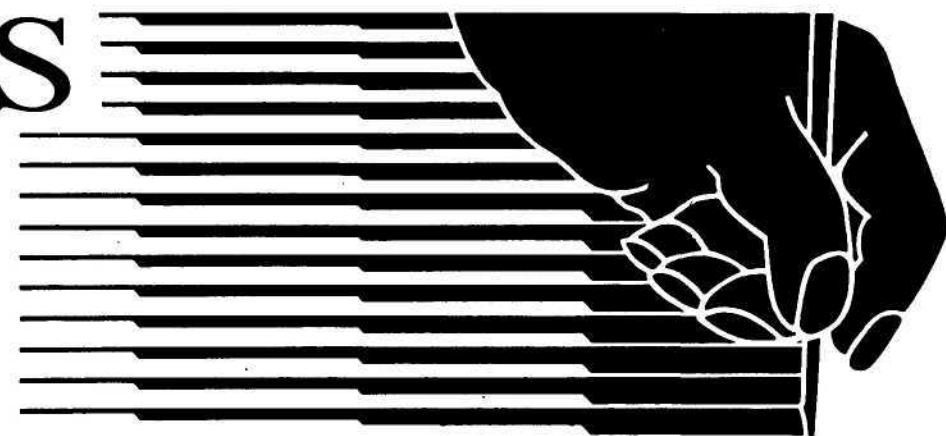
23. It is better to know your own faults than those of your neighbor

24. A child may have as many clothes as his father, but he does not have as many rags

25. The hand of a child cannot reach the shelf, nor can the hand of an adult get through the neck of a gourd

26. One who fetches water at the same place on the riverbank too often ends up in the crocodile

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



### Dear Editor:

I am a prisoner on death row at the Arizona State Prison, and I was wondering if you would do me a favor. I have been here for quite a while and have no family or friends on the outside to write to. So, I was wondering if you would put an ad in your campus newspaper for me, for correspondence. If not in your paper, then maybe you have some kind of bulletin that you would put it in. I know that you are not a pen-pal club or anything like that, but I would really appreciate it if you could help me.

I am a caucasian male, age 40, who desires correspondence with either male or female college students. I want to form a friendly relationship and more or less just exchange past experiences and ideas. I will answer all letters and exchange pictures. If

interested, write to Box B-38604, Florence, Arizona 85232.

Sincerely yours,  
Jim Jeffers

### Dear Editor:

I would appreciate if you would please print this letter for me in your College Newspaper or post it on conspicuous bulletin boards throughout the campus:

I am a lonely confined prisoner, who is confined in the State of New York. I am seeking correspondence with students — "Pen Pals". I will be living in the Queens area upon my release.

I am serving 1-1/2 to 3 years for Attempted Grand Larceny. I am white, 5 feet 8 inches and weight approximately 140 pounds. My astrological

sign is LIBRA.

I do not get mail and would appreciate hearing from students who would not mind corresponding with a lonely confined prisoner, namely ME I am also scheduled to be released this August.

I will explain all about myself to those who do write. A photo of those who correspond will be greatly appreciated and one will be sent in return.

Please send correspondence to:

Bill Nelson, 83-A-7663

C.C.F. — Box 367

Dannemora, N.Y. 12929

Thank you for handling this request.

Very truly yours,

William Nelson



# FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## CUNY NEWS

### CUNY Chancellor Discusses \$\$, Politics and Educated Police Officers

#### CUNY Urges 253,000 Students to Register to Vote

The 253,000 students at The City University of New York are being urged to register to vote when they register for classes this month at the University's 21 campuses. Special tactics for the voter registration drive are 14,000 new freshmen and transfer students who will start classes in February. It is the largest student voter registration drive in the country and makes voter registration forms available with class registration forms.

"This is a presidential election year and February 19 is the voter registration deadline for those who want to participate in the presidential primary. We believe it is important for students, as citizens, to be part of the electoral process, to recognize their privilege and responsibility they have as part of a democracy," said Chancellor Joseph S. Murphy.

Initiated by the University Student Senate, voter registration became an official part of the CUNY class registration process when it was unanimously approved by the University's Board of Trustees. The unprecedented university-wide effort to register thousands of students as voters started in September and will continue each semester.

Postage-paid voter registration forms in English or Spanish, supplied by the Board of Elections, are being distributed at tables manned by students or members of the college administration in the bustling class registration areas. As part of a publicity drive, Baruch College among others, has augmented the voter registration posters displayed at all the colleges with announcements on television monitors around the campus.

The City University of New York, the nation's leading urban university, comprises nine senior colleges, seven community colleges, one technical college, a graduate school, a law school, a medical school, and an affiliated school of medicine. More than 183,000 students are enrolled in academic programs and another 70,000 are enrolled in continuing education classes offered at campuses located throughout the five boroughs of the city of New York.

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Dr. Joseph S. Murphy, Chancellor of City University of New York.

#### Ward and Murphy Discuss Need for More College Educated Police Officers.

The need for increased numbers of college educated police officers and more women and minority officers were cited by Police Commissioner Benjamin Ward and City University Chancellor Joseph S. Murphy at a breakfast, January 26 in Police Headquarters. The Police Commissioner described the benefits of student participation in the Police Cadet Corps Program before an audience of City University college presidents, deans of students, student government presidents and other leaders. Chancellor Murphy announced that he would ask each college to appoint a Cadet Corps recruitment coordinator to work with the Police Department.

The Police Cadet Corps was organized to improve the quality of police service by increasing the number of officers who had a college education, in addition to adding more women and members of minority groups. It was developed by the New York City Police Department, the Patrolman's Benevolent Association and John Jay College of Criminal Justice of The City University of New York. Cadet candidates are selected in their college sophomore year on the basis of

academic ability, and interest in and fitness for police work. Cadets work part-time with the Police Department while they are in school, receive financial support for their education, and training for a job with the Police Department with an entry-level salary of \$28,000. Ten of the current 323 Police Cadets attended the breakfast in uniform.

Among the CUNY college presidents who planned to attend the event were President Roscoe C. Brown, Jr., Bronx Community College; Acting President Leo A. Corbie, Medgar Evers College; President Augusta S. Kappner, Borough of Manhattan Community College; President Shirley S. Kenny, Queens College; President Gerald W. Lynch, John Jay College of Criminal Justice; President Isaura Santiago, Hostos Community College; and President Kurt Schmeller, Queensborough Community College. William R. Howard, a member of the University's Board of Trustees, took part as well.

Top administrators of Baruch College, City College, New York City Technical College, the College of Staten Island, Hunter College, and Brooklyn College also participated in the meeting.

#### PELL Grant Increases Passage to Aid Over One Million College Students Nationwide

"Over a million more students across the country will be able to afford to go to college in 1988 because of the extraordinary bipartisan support in both houses of Congress for an increased Pell Grant budget, which Congress passed December 22," said Dr. Joseph S. Murphy, Chairman of the National Pell Grant Coalition.

Dr. Murphy, who is the Chancellor of The City University of New York, noted the FY88 federal spending bill provides a 10.4% increase in Pell Grants, and allows an increase in the maximum benefit for the neediest students from \$2,100 to \$2,200.

"This is the first benefit increase in three years," Dr. Murphy said, "and helps bring grant aid more in line with college costs. For low income students this means enhanced access to higher education and a lessening of the devastating debt many have faced in order to gain an education."

The bill, if signed by the President, will provide an estimated \$7 million increase in financial aid for students at The City University of New York, the nation's largest urban university, where 183,000 students are enrolled at 21 campuses in all five boroughs of the city.

Chancellor Murphy expressed special gratitude for the vision and support of House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations Subcommittee Chairman William Natcher (D)Ky.- and ranking minority member Silvio Conte (R)Mass.- as well as Senator Lawton Chiles (D)Fla.-, Chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee and Senator Lowell Weicker (R)Conn.-, the ranking minority member.

The National Pell Grant Coalition is comprised of 33 of the nation's leading education, student, labor and civil rights organizations. The coalition promotes enhanced funding for the Pell Grant program which enables nearly three million of the nation's neediest students to attend college.

Other speakers included Deputy Inspector Joseph Leake, the Commander of the Police Cadet Corps, and Dr. Joyce Brown, Acting Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Special Programs and Dean for Urban Affairs of The City University of New York.

Following the breakfast the educators were offered a behind the scenes tour of the Police Department, including the 911 operations.

The City University of New York, the nation's leading urban university, comprises nine senior colleges, seven community colleges, one technical college, a graduate school, a law school, a medical school, and an affiliated school of medicine. More than 183,000 students are enrolled in academic programs offered at campuses located throughout the five boroughs of the city of New York.



# FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

## The Bronx in the American Revolution...

In June 1776, George Washington, commander of all the American forces visited the area of the King's Bridge and personally selected the site for most of the forts to be erected. Eight forts on the rim of the hills overlooking the Harlem River on the Bronx side were built, most of them being called by number. Smaller forts, called redoubts were built along the original Boston Post Road (not the Boston Road of today) to guard the approaches to the Harlem River forts. One of these redoubts overlooked William's Bridge on the Bronx River where the southeast corner of Woodlawn Cemetery is today overlooking the bridge at Gun Hill Road. Another was on a hill above today's Van Cortlandt Avenue East just east of the Grand Concourse. Garrisoned by blacks from Virginia, it was called Negro Fort.

For the people living in what is now the Bronx, it was the start of difficult times. The Americans, after severe battles abandoned the Harlem River forts, and they were occupied by Hessian troops headquartered at Fort Number Eight (today south of the Hall of Fame on the Bronx Community College campus). Also occupied by the British and the Hessians were; the Morris Mansion (Brook Avenue and 132 St.) the Isaac Valentine farm (Van Cortlandt Avenue East near Bainbridge Avenue).

Several other battles were fought in which the Americans recaptured

the Valentine House, laid siege to Fort Independence (Sedgwick Avenue and Giles Place) and the redoubt in Woodlawn Cemetery. The American's cannon was set up on a little hill (Williamsbridge Oval) to fire on the British. The British scattered after a shot or two and even afterward the site where the cannon was placed has been called the Gun Hill.

In August 1778, a band of Stockbridge Indians from Connecticut, fighting for the Americans moved down Van Cortlandt Park north of Woodlawn Cemetery and were ambushed. They fled across what is now Van Cortlandt Park to the heights of Riverdale, but most of them including their chief, Nimham, were killed and buried in the park in a place still called Indian Field.

Are there any reminders of the struggle that took place two centuries ago in today's Bronx? There certainly are. Plaques and markers are on the site of the King's Bridge, Fort Independence, Fort Number Four and Fort Number Eight, the redoubt in Woodlawn Cemetery, the Battle of Pell's Point and the battle with the Stockbridge Indians. Lewis Morris, signer of the Declaration of Independence, is buried in St. Ann's Church on St. Ann's Avenue and 140th Street.

Two houses from those days still stand. The Van Cortlandt House in Van Cortlandt Park still has the bed in which George Washington slept. To walk through the Van Cortlandt Mansion Museum is to return to the world of the eighteenth century, to tread the same floor boards as George Washington, the Comte de Rochambeau and Lord Howe. The Valentine Mansion now called the Valentine-Varian House stands at Bainbridge Avenue and 208 Street, just across the street from its original location of Revolutionary days, and today serves as the Museum of Bronx History.

## DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING

"Every now and then I think about my own death, and I think about my own funeral.... I don't want a long funeral. And if you get somebody to deliver the eulogy,

tell them not to talk too long.... Tell them not to mention that I have a Nobel Peace Prize.... Tell them not to mention that I have three or four hundred other awards.... I'd like somebody to mention that day, that Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to give his life serving others. I'd like for somebody to say that day that Martin Luther King, Jr., tried to love somebody....

"Say that I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. That I was a drum major for righteousness. And all of the other shallow things will not matter. I won't have any money to leave behind. I won't have the fine and luxurious things of life to leave behind. But I just want to leave a committed life behind."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Ebenezer Baptist Church, Atlanta, Georgia, February 4, 1968

## ATTENTION ALL GRADUATES

### Announcing: Graduates' Transfer Day

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Representatives from approximately 40 four-year Colleges and Universities will be available to answer your questions about your questions about their programs, financial aid, admissions criteria, and more. This is your opportunity to get the information you need to help you with your decision about your educational future!

GRADUATION AND TRANSFER PROCEDURES  
Do you expect to graduate in June or August of 1988?



Dr. King just prior to his assassination in Memphis.

GRADUATES' CHECKLIST  
FILE CANDIDATE FOR DEGREE CARD - Registrar's Office, Colston 513. This alerts the college to check your records for graduation eligibility. To be ELIGIBLE for graduation you must:

Complete all SPECIFIC courses and TOTAL credit requirements in your curriculum. Check curriculum pattern sheet. Have a 2.00 minimum G.P.A. (Index) indegree course requirements.

PLANNING TO TRANSFER?  
CUNY APPLICATIONS: ALL STUDENTS MUST ATTEND A TRANSFER WORKSHOP FOR APPLICATION. Sign up for a Workshop in LO 311. Return application to Registrar's Office (Colston 513), by March 15th.  
PRIVATE COLLEGE APPLICATIONS: Must be obtained from college of your choice. SUNY applications FAF applications for PRIVATE & STATE colleges Available at LO 313  
SAT applications  
See Ms. Joan Moody, Transfer Office, LO 313, about Transfer Concerns.

## STRUGGLE

We know from painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor. It must be demanded by the oppressed.

The Negro cannot win... if he is willing to sell the future of his children for his personal and immediate comfort and safety.

**ONE TO THINK ON**  
*People are like tea bags, you never know strong they are until they're in hot water.*

## AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

No amount of gold could provide an adequate compensation for the exploitation and humiliation of the Negro in America down through the centuries... Yet, a price can be placed on unpaid wages. The ancient common law has always provided a remedy for the appropriation of the labor of one human being by another. This law should be made to apply for American Negroes. The payment should be in the form of a massive program by the government of special, compensatory measures which could be regarded as a settlement in accordance with the accepted practice of common law.

## AFRICA

We realize that injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. Therefore, we are as concerned about the problems of Africa as we are about the problems of the United States.

## THE AMERICAN DILEMMA

We may have to repent in this generation not merely for the vitriolic actions and words of the bad people, but also for the appalling silence of the good people.

The black revolution is much more than a struggle for the rights of Negroes. It is forcing America to face all its interrelated flaws—racism, poverty, militarism and materialism.

For its very survival sake, America must re-examine old presuppositions and release itself from many things that for centuries have been held sacred. For the evils of racism, poverty and militarism to die, a new set of values must be born.





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